



RMC Legislative Committee Meeting  
February 21, 2022  
2:00 pm to 3:00 pm  
Zoom Teleconference  
Agenda

Participants: Chris Benzing, Lindsay Thompson, Susan Harrison, Andrew Cassilly, Susan O'Neill, Matt Tefteau, Scott Warner, Grayson Middleton, Charlotte Davis, Beth Hill, Amanda Clevenger, Janice Palmer, Alice Settle-Raskin, John Hartline, Diana Hsu, Steve McHenry, Dakota Matthews, Cassie Shrink, Kaleign Walker, and Senator Adelaide Eckardt

- I. Welcome and Introductions: Chair Lindsay Thompson welcomed everyone to the meeting at 2:00pm. Charlotte Davis states that we should thank the Governor for the funding to the Regional Councils. Susan O'Neil states that they are still receiving details but are open for questions. Scott Warner mention that there will be a follow up on Friday. Charlotte Davis mentions the Council's Budget hearing to be held on Wednesday and that she will be there to support.
- II. Review of February 14, 2022, Meeting Minutes: The 2/14/2022 meeting minutes were unanimously accepted by consensus.
- III. 2022 Bill Tracking: The Committee only reviewed those bills that had a hearing coming up.
- IV. Bills on Hold from 2/14/2022
  - SB632/HB709: Maryland Health Benefit Exchange - Small Business and Nonprofit Health Insurance Subsidies Program. The committee agreed to support the bills and to write a letter of support for SB-632. *Status - Support*
  - SB640: Primary and Secondary Education - Maintenance of Effort Requirements – Alterations, Senate - First Reading - Budget and Taxation. The committee agreed to monitor the bill. *Status - Monitor*
  - HB787: Retiree Income Tax Relief Act of 2022. The committee agreed to support submit a Letter of Support for the bill – *Status – Support*
  - HB831: Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions - Commercial and Residential Buildings. The committee agreed to monitor the bill to be sure it is not too restrictive and to offer amendments if it is. *Status – Monitor*
  - HB570: Pesticides – Mosquito Control Products and PFAS Chemicals, Lindsay Thompson raises concerns of the affidavit for PFAS. There is no EPA regulation to test these oily substances, there is no method to properly sign the affidavit. Chris Benzing suggests that the committee oppose the bill to be consistent with positions on other bills. *Status – Oppose*
  - HB806: Building Standards and Emissions Reductions – High Performance, State, and Local Government Buildings, State Operations, and Eligible Projects. Charlotte

Davis states that the bill will include wood as an eligible material and that the committee should support the bill with an amendment to use locally sourced wood. The committee agrees to support the bill with amendments. *Status – Support with Amendments*

Bills Not Discussed at 2/14/ meeting:

- SB696/HB975: Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment for Nurses and Nursing Workers – Program Establishment and Funding. Concerns of money possibly coming out of the Nurse’s Board. Committee agrees to support the bill. *Status - Support*
  - SB698/HB854: Alcoholic Beverages – Maryland Alcohol Manufacturing and Promotion. The committee agrees to monitor the bills. *Status - Monitor*
  - SB783/HB596: Constitution Amendment – Environmental Rights. The committee believes that there will be effects on rural areas because of the natural gas that is used to create heat. The committee agrees to oppose the bills and to write a letter of opposition for HB596. *Status - Oppose*
  - SB854/HB1126: Graywater Systems – Public and Private Buildings – Authorization. The committee discussed; the bill impacts a specific property. The committee will monitor the bill. *Status - Monitor*
  - SB692: Cannabis – Legalization and Regulation (Cannabis Legalization and Reparations for the War on Drugs Act), Senate – Hearing 3/3 – Cannabis. *Status-Monitor*
- SB800/HB1002: Sales and Use Tax – Electricity for Agricultural Purposes – Exemption - Lindsay Thompson states that commercial and residential should be on the same playing field. Committee agrees to support the bills. *Status - Support*
- SB814/HB1312: Public Safety – Resilient Maryland Revolving Loan Fund – Alterations – Charlotte Davis states that the bills are similar to the Office of Resiliency bills, and will provide loans for damage mitigation of floods, earthquakes, and similar disasters. The committee agrees to support the bills, *Status - Support*
  - SB833: Cannabis – Legalization and Regulation – 3/03 *Status - Monitor*
  - SB845/HB1095: Economic Development – Maryland Technology Development Corporation – Rural Innovation Initiative Fund – Committee agrees to support the bills. *Status - Support*
  - SB853/HB1270: Maryland Real Property Transfer-on-Death (TOD) Act. The bill relates to heirs’ property and will simplify the process when there is no will. Clearly identify who gets the land in the case of a death with no will. Mid Shore Pro bono and Delegate Hill were involved with the bill. The committee agrees to support the bill *Status - Support*
  - SB903/HB1085: Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Qualifying Biomass and Thermal Biomass Systems. Beth Hill states that this bill is similar to the one that was not previously accepted but includes some of the recommended amendments. Committee agrees to support the bills. *Status - Support*

- HB1149: Department of Natural Resources – Shrimp Fishery Regulations – Clarification. Will require the DNR to implement a pilot program. Committee agrees to support the bills. *Status - Support*
- HB1216: Department of Agriculture – Urban Agriculture Grant Fund.  
**Already Supporting**
- HB1290: Education – Public School Construction – Funding and Administration – Charlotte Davis says that she will investigate the details of the bill. The committee agrees to hold the bill to next meeting. *Status - Hold*
- HB708 - Comprehensive Climate Solutions. The committee believed that the removal of natural gasses at this rate would have effects to rural areas that rely on it for heat and electricity, and to write a letter of concern addressing the issue.  
*Status– Letter of Concern*

V. Other: There was no additional conservation.

VI. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 2:58pm.

**Next Meeting: Monday, February 28, 2022, 2pm-3pm, Zoom Teleconference**